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OBU

MAGAZINE

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A group of five people (three women and two men) are standing on a green running track. They are all smiling and looking at the camera. The woman on the far left is leaning on a white and blue elliptical machine. They are in an outdoor setting with a building and a staircase in the background.

Advances in Health Education on Bison Hill

Division Changes and Cancer Research Programs

Springtime on Bison Hill





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In 1906, anticipating statehood, messengers from the Baptist Convention of Indian Territory and the Baptist Convention of Oklahoma Territory came together in Shawnee to form what is now known as the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. Shortly after its formation, the new convention established an education commission, and in 1910, the commission made a motion to found The Oklahoma Baptist University.

What those early Baptist pioneers did was nothing short of amazing! Our founders could have established a seminary, a two-year college, a Bible college, or a male only school, all worthy beginnings and all very common in that day. But rather than holding to conventional wisdom, those Oklahoma Baptist pioneers founded a four year, co-educational, Christian, liberal arts university – one that would impact every area of society and culture.

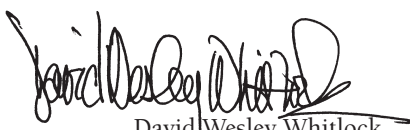
As we consider those OBU founders, we think they would be pleased to know that their dream of influencing every area of culture and society is being fulfilled by the more than 18,000 graduates serving in business, medicine, ministry, law, government and education.

Many of the academic programs first imagined by those early Oklahoma Baptist leaders are found today in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. As you will read in this edition of the *OBU Magazine*, the faculty in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences are pressing forward with exciting innovations while holding true to the founder's dreams of the Christian liberal arts.

You will also read about our most recent Promising Teacher Award recipient and how he dedicates his life to challenging and educating his students to be world changers for Christ. You will read about OBU's master's degree in marriage and family therapy and how an alumnus is changing lives in his practice as a therapist.

As you turn the pages of the magazine, you will see our mission lived out in many powerful ways as we transform lives to live worthy of the high calling of God in Christ.

May God bless you as He continues to bless OBU.



David Wesley Whitlock
OBU President

OBU MAGAZINE

obumagazine@okbu.edu | 405.585.5410

Editor

PAULA GOWER

Contributing Editors

KENNY DAY, DR. WILL SMALLWOOD

Writers

LANE CASTLEBERRY, KENNY DAY, RAY FINK,
CASADY FLETCHER, SOPHIA STANLEY

Creative Services

CHELE MARKER-CASH

Photographer

JEREMY SCOTT

UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION

President

DR. DAVID W. WHITLOCK

Provost and Executive Vice President for Campus Life

DR. R. STANTON NORMAN

Executive Vice President for Business and Administrative Services

RANDY L. SMITH

Senior Vice President for Advancement and University Relations

DR. WILL SMALLWOOD

Vice President for Information Integration and CIO

PAUL ROBERTS

Website

DAMON SEYMOUR

Social Media

LANE CASTLEBERRY

CONTACT INFORMATION

(area code 405)

Academic Center	585.5100
Admissions	585.5000
Alumni	585.5413
Business Office	585.5130
Campus Ministry	585.5700
Career Services	585.5260
Mabee Learning Center	585.4500
Marketing and Communications	585.5400
President's Office	585.5801
Residential Life	585.5253
Student Development	585.5250
Student Financial Services	585.5020
Switchboard	275.2850
University Advancement	585.5412

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Advances in Health Education

OBU announces launch of Health and Human Performance degrees with cutting edge applications and cancer research.

The Division of Kinesiology and Leisure Studies will re-launch as the Division of Health and Human Performance (HHP) this fall giving students a competitive edge for graduate school and career pursuits, according to Dr. Tom Darling, division chair and associate professor.

Program restructuring will allow students to choose between a health track leading to clinical careers and a performance track leading to non-clinical careers. The advanced curriculum will add new clinical and lab courses for the health track providing key education required for careers in a clinical

setting. A new physiology laboratory houses new exercise equipment and provides crucial learning experiences students need for success in their future careers.

“Division and programming changes were specifically designed to provide advanced education, training and experience for our students,” Darling said.

The health track will prepare students for graduate school and clinical careers in areas such as clinical exercise physiology, physical and occupational therapy, physician assistant and cancer research, among others. Students

“As we make these transitions, we hope to build on the division’s history of success and soon become the leading Christian exercise science program in the region,” Dr. Tom Darling said. (pictured far right)

will use the new exercise physiology lab for advanced testing, new clinical labs, the OBU Cancer Rehabilitation Program and the Cancer Research Program.

The division plans to purchase a TrueOne Metabolic System, which provides integrated metabolic measurement for cardiopulmonary stress testing, indirect calorimetry and maximal O₂ consumption. The system is used by the National Institutes of Health, NASA, Olympic Training Centers and various research and medical universities.

The human performance track is designed for students pursuing non-clinical careers in areas such as personal training/strength and conditioning, coaching, sports and recreation, teacher education and sports ministry. Current leisure studies programs including sports and recreation, camp administration and sports ministry will fall under this track.

New exercise testing and prescription lab courses will also utilize the exercise physiology lab providing students with hands-on training and guided experience working directly with clients. The next phase of lab development includes purchasing advanced fitness testing equipment for this track.

Students currently in the program may graduate with their present degree plan or may choose to take advantage of the new programs and curriculum.

“As we make these transitions, we hope to build on the division’s history of success and soon become the leading Christian exercise science program in the region,” Darling said.

CANCER REHABILITATION CENTER

Under the direction of Darling, OBU will open its cancer rehabilitation center on campus this summer on a limited basis, with plans to open to the OBU community beginning fall 2017 and to the public in 2018. Students will have the opportunity to gain valuable experience learning from Darling and working with cancer patients.

“I appreciate the support and encouragement I’ve received from the OBU family, specifically administration. Without their support, our goals and plans cannot become a reality. I want to highly encourage OBU affiliates to support the new HHP through gifts, donations, and/or scholarships. Outside support will greatly enhance and accelerate the development process,” he said.

STUDENT PERSPECTIVES



Senior **Hannah Dowell**, a pre-allied health and rehabilitation science major, is excited for the growth and believes the change will bring great opportunities for students. Dowell is one of four students working with Darling in the cancer research program, which provides students with specialized education, training and research experience. Students must apply for the three-semester program and are selected based on an interview, GPA and previous experience.

Dowell, a second-year participant in the cancer research program, encourages other students to join.

“Through our projects, I have had the opportunity to further my knowledge in research by becoming a regional and national American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) chapter member as well as having the opportunity to attend the Rocky Mountain ACSM conference,” Dowell said.

Megan Bowlin, a senior pre-allied health and rehabilitation science major, is the team lead for the group’s research project, titled, “Exercise and Prayer Effects on Cancer Survivor HRQOL (Health Related Quality of Life).” As team lead, Bowlin will be the chief presenter at the Rocky Mountain ACSM conference in Colorado this spring.



“We are creating an intervention to determine how much exercise and prayer affects the quality of life for those who have survived cancer,” Bowlin said. “We will be doing this through an eight-week walking and prayer program.

“We hope we are truly making a difference in people’s lives with this research intervention,” she said.

Dean Pam Robinson answers ...

WHY

Humanities and Social Sciences

MATTER ON BISON HILL



Dean of OBU's College of Humanities and Social Sciences since 2006, Dr. Pam Robinson shares the value and benefit of the wide-ranging academic disciplines taught within the college.

Q Why is it important to study the humanities and social sciences?

A These two broad areas make up a large part of OBU's liberal arts education. Looking at the question from that standpoint, I would consider today's job market. Certainly, some careers require a very specific training, such as nursing, teaching and engineering to name a few; however, it is safe to say all employers seek applicants who can think critically and solve complex problems; who possess collaborative skills; and who can communicate well. A liberal arts education provides a strong foundation for our students, which in turn contributes to their ability to adapt, regardless of the nature of their job. The College of Humanities and Social Sciences plays a large role in the liberal arts education for all students on Bison Hill.

Q Why should students come to OBU if they want to pursue a degree in the fields of behavioral and social sciences, kinesiology and leisure studies, language and literature, or teacher education?

A In general, I would point to our stellar faculty. We are set apart by the academic pursuits of our faculty, by the way they connect with students, by our commitment to the liberal arts, by our commitment to lifelong learning, and by our commitment to the integration of faith and discipline.

The Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences includes psychology, sociology, criminal justice, family science, anthropology, political science and history.

OBU's Division of Teacher Education inspires and trains the next generation of educators, preparing them for their careers as professional teachers. Pictured, elementary students learn about American history from senior elementary education major Kathleen Houston during one of OBU's semi-annual interactive children's museums.

The psychology faculty continue to do research and work in the field of psychology. They serve on state-level councils and committees making decisions affecting the whole state. The faculty for criminal justice worked in the justice system. Our historians study the works of notable historians so they are able to speak to history beyond the simplistic timelines of given events. They speak of the "why" and the "how" and the effects of specific events to invoke that critical thinking within each student.

The Division of Language and Literature has the distinction of being the workplace of Dr. Ben Myers, Oklahoma's Poet Laureate, for 2015-16. The progression of English Composition I through the two literature courses is a key component of the liberal arts program. As a result, students in every major are given the tools to write well.

Beginning fall 2017, the Division of Kinesiology and Leisure Studies will be called the Division of Health and Human Performance. This is especially appropriate as we begin a new emphasis on health, to include research components, even at the undergraduate level. Pre-allied health continues to be a choice for many students. Typically, these students go on to apply to graduate programs in physical therapy. On the leisure studies side, sports ministry comes to the forefront.

In the Division of Teacher Education, we view teaching as a mission, a high calling. We view the classroom as a mission field. While a teacher cannot proselytize in the classroom, he or she can model and exhibit those attributes unique to a Christian. All faculty in teacher education must have served in a P-12 setting relative to their area of expertise. As well, all faculty in teacher education must spend time in current classroom settings to ensure currency in the ever-changing education system. Teacher candidates leave the program prepared to be effective teachers who share Christ's love in every situation.



Regardless of career path, students learn about a complex world and how to navigate that world as they gather information to solve problems. They learn to look at the world through a Christian worldview.

Q What sets an OBU College of Humanities and Social Sciences degree apart from other Christian and Baptist universities?

A Regardless of career path, students learn about a complex world and how to navigate that world as they gather information to solve problems. They learn to look at the world through a Christian worldview. This is not just being able to state how their Christianity and a given career path integrate; rather, it is viewing their career through the Christian lens. Much like C.S. Lewis once said, "I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else." By the light of Christianity, we see the discipline or the career path.



Q When students graduate with degrees from the College, what careers are they prepared for? What types of positions or fields of study might they work in?

A We prepare stellar teachers who are in demand across the United States, many winning teacher of the year honors by their site or district. We prepare students for successful careers in law where they may become an attorney or choose to work as an analyst. We provide a solid educational foundation for those who desire to work in higher education. Many are inspired and encouraged by our faculty to pursue a terminal degree, and we prepare our students well to attend graduate school to continue preparation for their chosen career.

Those majoring in pre-allied health are often on the pathway to attend graduate school for the Doctor of Physical Therapy. Many of our majors use their skills on the mission field whether they majored in Spanish to serve in a Spanish speaking country or they are using their degree as a door into a certain country. Many of our graduates are working in sports ministry or combining their sports ministry degree with youth ministry.

We provide a solid educational foundation for those who desire to work in higher education. Many are inspired and encouraged by our faculty to pursue a terminal degree, and we prepare our students well to attend graduate school to continue preparation for their chosen careers.

Q What does the future of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences hold at OBU?

A One of my continuous goals is to keep each area on “the cutting edge.” This concept is easily applied to the hard sciences where research continually results in new discoveries. The concept is a little more obscure in the social sciences, but nonetheless important. This includes knowing and practicing good pedagogy, but it also means preparing students for the jobs of tomorrow—jobs we don’t even know will exist in the next 10 years, placing greater importance and value on their liberal arts training. I want to see education classrooms equipped with the latest technology so that our teacher candidates are ready for tomorrow. Tomorrow’s students will use technology at every turn, and our future teachers need to be prepared. I want to see a state-of-the-art human performance lab where we can conduct research and even serve community needs.

I want OBU to be the first thought when that company needs a good writer for a given project. I want OBU to be the first thought when the local genealogy group wants a presentation on how to integrate family research and history. I want OBU to be the first thought when a school district desires information on the many ways to teach reading or the integration of children with disabilities into the general classroom. I want OBU to be the first thought when a church needs direction to facilitate a church recreation program.

Healing Families

OBU's Marriage and Family Therapy



the family to resolve them. The MFT listens to the family and individuals and assists in identifying where certain problems may lie.

The MFT can offer guidance and assistance to family members to help them work through their issues. This process can help bring families together, encourage effective communication methods and help families work together to establish meaningful support systems.

OBU's Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy prepares the next generation to reach the world through the healing power of therapy.

Transforming lives – a key component of OBU's mission – is powerfully demonstrated by graduates of the University's marriage and family therapy program as they apply their skills to bring God's healing to families, couples and individuals.

WHAT IS MFT?

No family is perfect and many marriages and families have underlying issues that contribute to frequent problems and arguments. The job of the marriage and family therapist (MFT) is to identify those contributing factors and work with

MFTs are trained to provide a systems-oriented treatment approach to work with mental, emotional, behavioral and interpersonal issues. A therapist may work with couples and families together, or with individuals to address mental health concerns, improve relationships, positively affect the family dynamic and improve communication between loved ones.

"The MFT degree equips you with knowledge and hands-on experience

to prepare you for licensure as an MFT and clinical practice,” said Dr. Tara Signs, marriage and family therapy clinic director at OBU.

“Because of this extensive training, MFTs can be successful in diverse settings, including community and government agencies, hospitals, religious settings, residential/inpatient and outpatient facilities, and private practices.”

GROWING DEMAND

More than 6.1 million people annually are seen by MFTs, according to the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapists (AAMFT). Recognizing the growing need for MFTs, and after seeing a steady growth in demand since the program was established in its current form in 2013, OBU is expanding its course offerings. In addition to classes in Shawnee, the University will begin offering classes in Broken Arrow this fall and in Oklahoma City in January 2018.

“I’m excited that OBU will be expanding its contribution to improving the quality of mental health care in Oklahoma,” said Dr. Canaan Crane, director of OBU’s MFT program. “Offering classes for the MFT program in Oklahoma City and Broken Arrow will afford opportunities for more people who want to consider a degree in marriage and family therapy from OBU.”

A degree in marriage and family therapy is similar to a counseling degree, but with more specialized training in working within a relational context. The curriculum teaches students how to work with individuals and families to address mental health and relationship concerns.

“We train and equip students to solve problems within marriages and

families, as opposed to solely within individuals,” said Dr. Jonathan Wilson, OBU MFT professor.

CAREER OPTIONS

Career options are diverse for MFTs. They may work in a government office, for the military, or at a nonprofit or for-profit agency offering counseling and social services to families, seniors and youth. MFTs may also work for substance abuse or mental health centers, providing counseling to people struggling with addiction or serious mental health issues. With

a degree in marriage and family therapy, graduates may also find work in education, from elementary schools to colleges and universities. According to the AAMFT, 25 percent of MFTs work in faith-based settings, such as churches or other ministries.

Hospitals also employ a growing number of MFTs, recognizing that physical health is strongly linked to a patient’s environment and mental health. Some of these therapists may be referred to as medical family therapists, working with families through challenges such as

MFT SPOTLIGHT

Transforming Lives

Larry Roberts, '97 and '03, shares about the impact an OBU education made on his life and how he found his calling in Marriage and Family Therapy.

Larry Roberts came to OBU on what he thought was a whim. Yet, what he found was a life of purpose and significance, one devoted to helping others heal through the power of therapy.

Roberts grew up in Ardmore, Oklahoma. Following high school graduation, he wasn’t sure what to do next.

“Choosing to attend OBU was impulsive, to say the least,” he said.

He considered enlisting in the armed forces because his father was a veteran, but didn’t see that as the right path for him. He hadn’t given much thought to



a terminal illness or a life-altering diagnosis. OBU has the only MFT program in Oklahoma also offering a certificate in medical family therapy.

UNIQUENESS OF MFT

The field's growing prominence is partially due to its family-centered approach and demonstrated effectiveness.

"Most counseling takes an individual route, however, in MFT, while we may work with individuals, we always think relationally," Crane said.

The field of marriage and family therapy is geared toward treating

people on more than an individual level, taking into account factors such as family, society, employment and environment, as well as the patient's emotional, physiological and psychological systems. This approach is an important puzzle piece as a holistic approach to problems, not just treating the symptoms.

"We look at enacting systemic change. You get much better and longer lasting results," Crane added.

PROGRAM DETAILS

The MFT program at OBU equips graduates to practice marriage and family therapy from a Christian

perspective. Students frequently discuss how faith may be connected with a career in marriage and family therapy.

"Our classes have regular discussions about how faith is important in both our lives and in our clients' lives," Crane said. "We strive to equip our students to understand a biblical worldview and we hope that our students will provide excellent services to clients that incorporate a holistic perspective."

All courses are taught from an MFT perspective, providing systems-oriented training for excellent preparation to work with families

college because more time in school didn't appeal to him. However, some of his friends planned to attend OBU and asked him to go with them. He enrolled at OBU and majored in religion with an emphasis in biblical languages. Yet, his real interest was in his minor – family psychology.

"During my undergrad years, I landed in a family communication class with Dr. Oscar Jeske [professor emeritus of family development and counseling]. I appreciated his way of thinking and his way of looking at the world and became captivated by the study of family dynamics."

Roberts has many wonderful memories of being on campus, but his favorite memory happened the night before classes began his sophomore year. That was when he met his future wife, Candace Hale Roberts, '93, following a concert in Raley Chapel. The two began dating and were married less than two years later.

He completed a Bachelor of Arts in Religion in 1997, but after graduation,

he began to sense that God was calling him to return to school and pursue a master's degree in marriage and family therapy.

One day, as Roberts worked as the customer service manager at Homeland, Dr. Jeske came into the store and asked him about a certain kind of bread he liked but couldn't find anywhere. Roberts tracked down a source for the bread and ordered some for his former professor. When Jeske came by the store to pick it up, Roberts decided to ask him about OBU's MFT program.

"He invited me to his office and explained the process required to get into the program. To this day, I believe it was that hard European bread I ordered for Dr. Jeske that got me back into school," Roberts said.

Roberts completed his Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy in 2003 and over the next 10 years, he spent time working at the Unzner Child Advocacy Center, Moore Youth and Family Services, Red Rock

Behavioral Health, and Christian Counseling, PLLC, in Moore and Shawnee.

In August 2013, he and two colleagues, Bret Ellard, '81, and Heather Annis, opened the Center for Christian Counseling and Care (CCCC) in downtown Shawnee, where he serves as a partner and therapist. He specializes in helping married couples reconcile and restore their relationships, helping families manage stressful times and helping clients heal through trauma, grief and loss.

Roberts believes his decision to be a marriage and family therapist was a calling to be obeyed, rather than a choice to be made.

"I don't look at becoming an MFT as my decision, but rather as obedience to the One who gifted and equipped me to become an MFT," he said.

"Getting a master's degree in marriage and family therapy allowed me to leave a job I needed and begin

and couples. Students may complete the MFT program in two, three or four years, with class schedules designed to fit the needs of working adults. Students will complete 45 total credit hours, meeting the requirements for licensure as a marriage and family therapist in the state of Oklahoma.

OBU faculty have clinical experience as practicing therapists and teaching experience in MFT programs, giving students a high quality academic experience, resulting in strong licensure pass rates. The faculty are not only experienced in the field, but also are AAMFT approved supervisors and licensed MFTs.

Options are available for OBU undergraduate students to participate in the integrated MFT program, earning up to 12 hours toward their master's degrees while still in undergraduate studies.

MFT WEBSITE:
okbu.edu/mft



Dr. Canaan Crane

a career I wanted,” he said. “It has opened my eyes to more clearly see God’s design for the family unit and has allowed me to positively impact the lives of people in so many ways.”

While working as a marriage and family therapist is challenging, Roberts considers it an honor to be invited into the lives of hurting people.

“When I see people make changes in their lives that help them stay healthy, and then remain married for many years to come, that is my biggest reward,” he said.

As he looks back on his time at OBU, Roberts credits his professors with leaving a lasting impact on his life and his career.

“Dr. Jeske was the biggest influence during my time at OBU. His love for people and his desire to help them make positive and lasting changes in their lives was a powerful testimony of how God uses us for His glory. Dr. Tom Wilks [professor

emeritus of religious education] was another enormous influence on me. His intelligence, compassion, and demonstration of humility and love for everyone he met was unmistakable. Dr. Glenn Sanders [professor of history] is yet another professor with considerable influence on me. The passion, energy and enthusiasm which he uses to teach students is a model I seek to imitate in my own classroom.”

In 2014, Roberts began teaching as an adjunct professor of marriage and family therapy at OBU, where he teaches graduate students.

“Not only do I love the students and enjoy their excitement at learning about this great field, but teaching helps keep me sharp in the therapy room,” he said. “As an adjunct professor, I try to teach students to be ready to get in the game and make a difference.”

Out of all that he does, his most important work is as a husband and father.

“Part of being a good therapist is taking care of yourself emotionally, physically and spiritually,” he said. “I am first and foremost a husband, so my marriage comes before everyone and everything in my life. To that end, Candace and I make sure we spend time together daily to take care of our marriage, because if it fails, all else fails. We make sure we spend time with our children individually and as a family to keep connections fresh and alive.”

The Roberts have five children and a son-in-law, and have been married for 25 years. They are active members of Immanuel Baptist Church in Shawnee where Larry teaches an adult Sunday School class and Candace is involved in the ladies’ ministry and the music ministry. Together, they lead marriage seminars in community and church settings as well as teach discipleship courses on marriage-related topics. For relaxation, Larry plays competitive racquetball and enjoys golf and chess.

Defending the Faith ... One Worldview at a Time

DR. TAWA ANDERSON

2016 PROMISING TEACHER AWARD RECIPIENT

“There is nothing in my job I love more than seeing a young man or woman thrive as a Christian academic, someone who combines academic excellence with a life worthy of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

When Dr. Tawa Anderson received OBU's Promising Teacher Award during Spring Commencement 2016, it came as no surprise to those who know him. Hard working, compassionate, intelligent, driven and fervent for the Gospel, Anderson has made a significant impact on the campus community in the five-and-a-half years since his arrival. As assistant professor of philosophy and director of the honors program, he challenges students to expand their horizons, reexamine their perceptions, and forge a worldview centered on Christ and the Bible.

Anderson was born and raised in Sherwood Park, Alberta, Canada, a suburb of Edmonton, Alberta's capital city. His mother was a teacher and his father owned a forensic consulting engineering company, demonstrating

the value of education and hard work to him and his three older siblings.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts with honors in political science at the University of Alberta and a Master of Divinity at Edmonton Baptist Seminary. He then served as English pastor at Edmonton Chinese Baptist Church from 2001-08 and part-time as a Baptist chaplain at the University of Alberta. He and his family then moved to Louisville, Kentucky, for three years while he completed a Doctor of Philosophy at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, focusing on worldview and apologetics.

Anderson then began searching for the next step in God's plan, applying to more than 50 different teaching positions in colleges and universities throughout North America and overseas. A close mentor in Edmonton, who happened to be from Oklahoma, had encouraged him to pursue a position at OBU if he ever had the opportunity.

“The job description at OBU fit my character, interests and academic expertise perfectly,” Anderson said. “I was thoroughly excited about the possibility of becoming part of the faculty here.”

Anderson teaches a broad range of courses in the philosophy department including philosophy of the mind, epistemology and contemporary apologetics. He also teaches courses in the Master of Arts in Christian Studies program, as well as the J-Term Christian worldview course designed for freshmen. He has served as director of the honors program for the past two years. He helped launch the University's philosophy forum in 2012, an annual series of lectures and panel discussions on relevant and contemporary issues and topics.

“My time at OBU has been rewarding, challenging and fulfilling,” he said. “I have had the opportunity to start new initiatives, develop new curriculum and set a new vision for program review. It has been beyond my expectations in every respect. My family has become integrated into school, church and community life here, and we consider Shawnee home.”

Passionate about contemporary Christian philosophy, Anderson is particularly ardent about philosophical apologetics - explaining and defending the truth of Christian theism in the face of cultural and academic objections, doubts and challenges. He leads groups of students every January to an annual apologetics conference in New Orleans and to a regional philosophy conference every spring. He serves as the faculty mentor for the student-led philosophy club and the soon-to-launch student-led apologetics club.

“Given the multi-career nature of this generation and future generations, it is more important than ever that we, faculty and students alike, envision college as a preparation of the whole person as a Christian citizen, ready for whatever comes their way down the road,” Anderson said. “I want my students to learn that all truth is God’s truth. I also want them to put Christ first. It is easy to focus on academic life and community and social life to the point where church involvement and personal devotions take a back seat. But they can’t let that happen. Likewise, I teach them to strive for excellence in all things. Habits they form now will shape the rest of their lives. I challenge them to not settle for mediocrity.”

Anderson’s students
appreciate the way he
invests in their lives
and his approach to
teaching, learning and
spiritual development.

Chandler Warren, a freshman from Poteau, Oklahoma, is a double major in religion and philosophy and has taken several courses with Anderson, including philosophy and contemporary Christian apologetics.

“Dr. Anderson cares about sharing complex topics in a simple way,” Warren said. “He wants the class to bring their own perspective, thoughts or questions into the



discussion to develop a well-rounded and diverse view of the topic. He also invests in students’ lives in the classroom, in his office and in his home. He invites students to be a part of his life, and in turn, I think his students respond by giving him part of theirs.”

Lauren Dean, a sophomore English major from Framingham, Massachusetts, has taken four courses with Anderson, including philosophy, honors and colloquium classes.

“Dr. Anderson stands out in terms of his personality and teaching style, and his door is always open for students to drop in to chat or to discuss class work,” Dean said. “His ability to constantly draw topics back to their foundation in our faith has been eye-opening on countless occasions. His commitment to his faith, his students and his discipline is made apparent in each class.”

Anderson has been married to his high school sweetheart, Vanessa, for 20 years. They have three children, Mataeo, Alethea and Keilani. He enjoys spending time with family, reading and cycling. He loves music and plays piano, guitar and bass guitar on the worship team and for youth worship at Temple Baptist Church in Shawnee.

vision *for a* new century

The Campaign for Oklahoma Baptist University 2.0

Taking the Next Step



Dr. Will Smallwood
*Senior Vice President
for Advancement and
University Relations*

The arrival of spring on Bison Hill always ushers in excitement for the future. The sunshine brings warm afternoons, trees and flowers come to life, and students study and relax in hammocks and on blankets. Seniors look forward to commencement, concluding their four years of studies as they prepare to venture out into the world. Indeed, spring is a time when life flourishes, expectations grow and we look forward to what lies ahead.

Just as the spring brings anticipation for the future, so too does this season of blessing at OBU. As we reflect on the recent years on Bison Hill, we pause to realize just how much progress has been made. Our admissions team has worked faithfully and diligently sharing the OBU story with prospective students around the nation and around the globe, and God has blessed those efforts with the three largest freshman classes in University history, all during the last four years. New facilities have been constructed, while others have undergone renovation and restoration. Our students are thriving as they pursue academic excellence while learning to integrate their faith with the knowledge gained in classrooms, extracurricular activities and Global Outreach trips.

In March, we were blessed by Archie Manning as he inspired us at the University's fifth annual Green and Gold Gala. This event has become a tradition for so many in the OBU community and is a

special night to celebrate our successes and achievements as we focus on the worthy endeavor of raising funds for student scholarships.

As we continue to push toward the completion of the Vision for a New Century 2.0 campaign, the largest resource development initiative in OBU history, one of the planned building projects will have tremendous impact on our students and OBU's future. Just to the north of Raley Chapel, in the space once home to Jent Hall, a new major resource is planned for Bison Hill.

The Student Services Center will provide a welcoming first impression for all who visit Oklahoma Baptist University, from prospective students to alumni and friends. Serving as the official grand entrance to campus, the proposed 28,000 square foot facility with an estimated construction cost of \$8.5 million is another step forward in communicating the OBU story.

Visitors will be able to learn of OBU's worldwide impact through engaging video presentations on the University's history and the success stories of our graduates. The building will also be a hub of activity for current and future students, with the first floor housing the offices of admissions, student financial services, registrar, academic center and bursar. Executive offices will be located on the second floor.



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I pray you will consider a gift that will transform lives and impact generations of students. Perhaps you will consider signing up for MustardSeed or consider providing an outright gift online at okbu.edu/give. Whatever the case, please know we are grateful for your faithful support and your desire to partner in this incredible mission, a mission that has spanned more than a century while making an impact for eternity.

OBU is partnering with MustardSeed to invest in the next generation of Christian leaders. MustardSeed rounds up your credit and debit purchases to the nearest dollar and sends the change to OBU. Round ups are then drafted from your checking, savings or credit card account each month. If finances are tight, you can pause round ups at any time and resume when you're ready.

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"...If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will tell this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." – Matthew 17:20



The Joy of Giving

Women's Group Donates to Enhance Campus Safety

Since its inaugural year in 2015, the Women of Vision giving circle has worked to educate, encourage and engage women at OBU through various programs and projects designed to leave a lasting impact on Bison Hill.

With 78 members and nearly \$70,000 raised this year, Women of Vision is ready to take on their next project. At their annual event in 2016, members voted to equip buildings on campus with keyless card access.

"In 2015, the Women of Vision voted to use the \$45,000 raised to provide additional lighting on campus," said Gretchen Trimble, coordinator for Women of Vision. "That, combined with this year's keyless card access project, speaks volumes about our desire to enhance and impact the safety and security of our students on Bison Hill."

The dorms on campus already have keyless card access, so the project will focus on other buildings, including Ford Music Hall, Wood Science building, Noble Complex, Thurmond Hall, Mabee Learning Center, Geiger Center and the Art Building.

The project is expected to be functional by the start of the fall 2017 semester and cost between \$50,000 and \$60,000.

Membership in Women of Vision requires a commitment of \$1,000 per year. A special rate of \$500 per year is offered to faculty and staff or their spouses, as well as current students and recent OBU graduates. It is also possible to provide membership through sponsorship of a current



Women of Vision member Donna Griffin, right, visits with other members during the 2016 annual event. This year's project will provide keycard access to seven buildings on campus, further improving campus safety.

student or recent graduate.

Members play an integral role in directing financial resources and making a significant impact on students, faculty and staff on campus. Women of Vision gives them the opportunity to connect and network with other women as well as celebrate the joy of giving and the difference it makes.

WOMEN OF VISION WEBSITE:
okbu.edu/wov

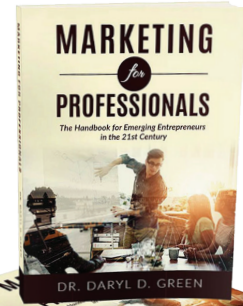
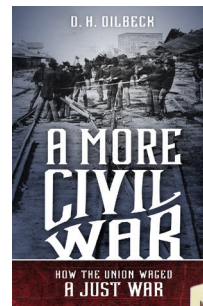
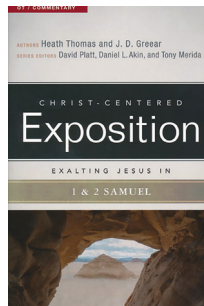
OBU Faculty Publish Books

Dr. Heath Thomas, dean of the Hobbs College of Theology and Ministry and associate vice president for church relations, co-authored “Exalting Jesus in 1 and 2 Samuel,” as part of the Christ-Centered Exposition series by Broadman and Holman Publishing Group. The book and series are available at bhpublishinggroup.com.

Dr. D.H. Dilbeck, assistant professor of history, has authored a new book titled, “A More Civil War: How the Union Waged a Just War.” The book was released in

October and is available on Amazon.com and at other major booksellers.

Dr. Daryl Green, assistant professor of business and Dickinson chair of business, recently published his latest book, “Marketing for Professionals: The Handbook for the Emerging Entrepreneurs of the 21st Century.” Published by CreateSpace Independent



Publishing Platform, it is a handbook for working professionals and is available on Amazon.com.



OBU Presents J.M. Carroll Award to Kelly King



OBU presented the J.M. Carroll Award to Kelly King during the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma's (BGCO) annual meeting Tuesday, Nov. 15, at Quail Springs Baptist Church in Oklahoma City.

King is the former BGCO Women's Missions and Ministry Specialist, serving in that position for 11 years before assuming the role of Women's Ministry Specialist for Lifeway in November. She has served as an adjunct professor at OBU teaching women's ministry courses

and has written extensively for multiple Christian publications. She is a teacher, equipper, writer and leader in women's missions and ministries and champion for the cause of Christ in the state of Oklahoma.

The award is given in recognition of outstanding denominational service in the state of Oklahoma. It is named for Dr. J.M. Carroll, who served as OBU's first president, helping establish the foundation upon which OBU's tradition of excellence has been built.

OBU Honors 103 Graduates During Winter Commencement

OBU conferred degrees upon 74 undergraduate and 29 graduate students during Winter Commencement, Friday, Dec. 16. Pastor Joe Ligon, senior pastor at First Baptist Church of Marlow, Oklahoma, and president of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, delivered the address. OBU President Dr. David W. Whitlock presided over the ceremonies and delivered the charge to the graduates. Hunter Doucette, president of the OBU Student Government Association, and Dr. Stan Norman, provost and executive vice president for campus life, presented the graduating class.

Pictured, Dr. Galen Jones (left), assistant professor of church planting and Floyd K. Clark Chair of Christian Leadership, congratulates Jermaine Livingston, '16, following the ceremony. Livingston is from Moore, Oklahoma, and earned a bachelor's degree in news and information. He is currently serving as a Lieutenant in the United States Air Force and is attending seminary, working on a Master of Divinity.



OBU Welcomes Student Success Director, Assistant Dean of Students

The University recently welcomed Kirt Henderson, alumnus and former assistant director of admissions, as director of student success, and Jonathan Solomon as assistant dean of students for diversity and multicultural student services

Henderson oversees the operation of the Milburn Student Success Center, including programs related to at-risk students, general academic support, student-athlete academic support, retention counseling and retention initiatives. The Milburn Center assists students of all majors, classifications and academic needs with comprehension of course material and development of study, research, analytical, reading, writing and critical thinking skills.



Henderson

He earned a Bachelor of Arts in religion and a Master of Business Administration from OBU. Prior to returning to Bison Hill, he served as the associate director

of admissions at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

Henderson says he was drawn back to OBU because of his fondness for the university. "My four years as a student were incredibly formative. I not only earned a degree, but truly experienced intellectual, social and spiritual transformation. While serving on the OBU admissions team, I came to appreciate the people and mission of the institution even more. Ultimately, it is easy to work with purpose at such a special place."

Solomon is responsible for developing and implementing programs and services for students in the areas of international student services and underrepresented ethnic populations. He partners with academic and administrative departments to promote student success and health.

He earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in organizational management from Langston University and a Master of Education in adult and higher education from the University of

Oklahoma. He is currently working on a Doctor of Education in educational evaluation and research from Wayne State University.

Before coming to OBU, he was the assistant director of TRIO, Upward Bound, at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. In that role, he reviewed student academic progress, recommended specific actions regarding academic and career goals, maintained and updated student advising records, and approved student requests for academic action, among many other duties.



Solomon

"I truly believe God brought me to OBU," Solomon said. "One of the things I felt that I was missing at some of my previous institutions was the ability to fully operate in my faith when interacting with students, faculty and staff."

OBU's Enactus Group Receives Women's Empowerment Grant

OBU's "Entrepreneurs, Action and Us" (Enactus) group received a \$1,500 grant to complete their project focusing on women's economic empowerment.

The University's local chapter of the international Enactus organization was formed to create sustainable economic assistance to those in need. Enactus is a community of student, academic and business leaders committed to using the power of entrepreneurial action to transform lives and shape a better, more sustainable world.

Since their formation as a team, OBU's Enactus team has had a partnership with Project Safe, a local organization

housing battered and abused women and children in need of a refuge from those who have hurt them. Currently, Project Safe gives these women a safe place to stay and some financial support.

The "Women's Economic Empowerment" grant from the Enactus organization is funded by Wal-Mart and helps OBU's Enactus group acquire materials to provide women in Project Safe job training to help them become economically independent. Training areas include customer

service, management, social media marketing, resume building and personal finance.



Left to right: Dean David Houghton, Tina Roach, Chase Lanphear, Kristopher McNeal, Libby Unruh, Isabella Scarinzi, Kevin Mendoza, Dr. Craig Walker, Amellia (Coffey) Gardner, and Dillon Gardner.

New Forensics and Debate Team Wins First Championship

Over the last year, there has been talk nationwide about debates. Who said what, who won, and what effect each debate made on the viewers. And while that national conversation was couched in the midst of presidential politics, speech and debate also came to life on OBU's campus in Shawnee.

During the fall 2016 semester, OBU launched the forensics and debate team, led by Scot Loyd, assistant professor of communication studies and director of forensics and debate.

It didn't take long for the team to make an impact bringing home its

first tournament championship from the Tulsa Community College/Green County debate tournament in October. OBU competed against 20 other college and university programs from across the region.

"Debate serves our growth because it forces us to listen to others, identify our differences and points of agreement, and articulate our viewpoint as it is supported by the evidence, or change if we find it unsubstantiated," Loyd said.

The team currently competes in the public debate category, a more real-world experience of persuasion.

"Students benefit from debate because it improves their critical thinking and oratory skills immediately," Loyd said. "Over time, students involved in debate are poised to benefit the institutions they choose to serve because they have done the hard work of thinking through the difficult challenges that face our society and world."



Pictured, clockwise from bottom left, are Chase Chastain, Anna Chandler, Tyler Scott, Matt Schuetz, Scot Loyd, Jennifer Pensamiento-Hilton, Hannah Chandler and Avry Wood.

Education Majors Give Local Students Historical Look at the 1960s

OBU teacher education students hosted the 35th interactive children's museum last November, titled "Defining Events of the 1960s: A Historical Study Using Photographs as Text."

During the event, elementary students from local schools learned through activities created by elementary education majors in the social studies methods course.

The students selected four iconic pictures from the 1960s and used those to discuss the impact of Woodstock and pop culture on the times, Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Rights movement, the space race and putting a man on the moon, and the impact of the Vietnam War.



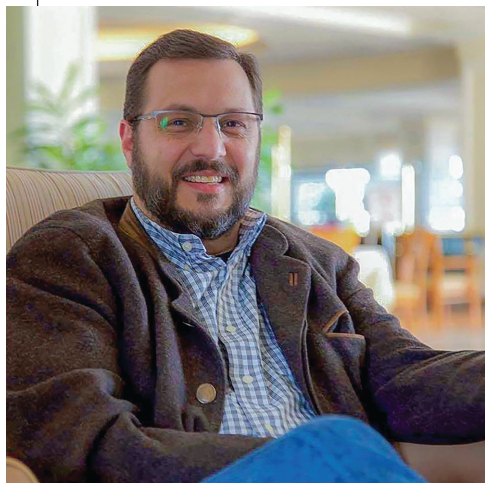
Special education major Kelly Burton teaches elementary school students about the timeline of technology inventions that led up to the space race of the 1960s and the importance of being the first to put a man on the moon.

"Through this project, my students practice pedagogical, collaborative and creative skills," said Dr. Jeanne Akin, professor of education. "They develop not only a passion for social studies, but also a sense of responsibility and an understanding of the power that comes from sharing that knowledge with children."

OBU PHOTO BY ALENA BLAKLEY

Home on Bison Hill: An OBU Alumnus Perspective

By Marc Ira Hooks, '90



OBU alumnus Marc Hooks, '90, shares about the home he found on Bison Hill and the special bonds that shaped the course of his life. He is a seasoned communicator, photojournalist, missionary, and church planter, bringing a unique perspective built upon his passionate love for OBU and his years of experience on the mission field, in photojournalism and in media.

One of the most difficult questions you can ask someone who has served overseas as a missionary is, "So, where are you from?" Those five words can leave both children and adults paralyzed as they wrestle with how to answer that "simple" question. The truth is, even for those who have moved around the United States, the answer is not as simple as you might think. It is not really a question of geography, but one that is much more complex. To answer the question, you must dig deeper than latitude and longitude. The answer is not in the cover of your passport, or even the license plate on the back of your car. The deeper question is ... "Where is home?"

Home is more than where I lay my head at night. It is more than the location of where I was born, or even the place where I was raised. Home can rarely be pinpointed on a map, even for siblings who have a set of common experiences.

You see, home is more than a place. It is more than a feeling. Home is often beyond definition. And yet, when you are there, you know you have arrived. Home is a place of genesis; it is a place of origins. Home is where your story begins. For me, my story begins at Oklahoma Baptist University.

As I served overseas on the mission field I would tell people that when it was time for college, I moved from my home of 18 years in Maryland to Shawnee, Oklahoma. I would jokingly add, "that was my first cross-cultural experience." And though it was said with some jest, the statement could not have been more true. I was as out of place as Dorothy when she found herself in Oz. While my formative years provided the raw materials for the man I would become, it was not until I arrived on the steps of Raley Chapel that I would begin to take the building blocks of my youth and assemble them together to make me into the man I am today. But building takes more than raw materials, it takes blueprints and plans, training and tools, wisdom and experience.

From the time we donned the beanie of green and gold, to the black robes of graduation, we experienced life together. We made that place our home, and the people our family. It was in buildings with names like Sarkeys, Mabree and Shawnee where my understanding of the world, and my place in it, would be formed. And it was in Brotherhood, Noble and Geiger where friendships and lifelong relationships were forged. In Raley, we bonded together to form a community that was stronger together than we were apart. And we understood that while we shared space, proximity and location for a short while, we would soon be scattered across the country – even to the ends of the earth, so that "the sun would never set on our OBU family."

It was at OBU where dreams and ambition morphed into jobs and careers. Through the years, it has not been uncommon to hear phrases my professors used coming out of my mouth – the accumulated wisdom of the ages being passed on to a new generation as we took what was given to us and strove to make it better. As time has passed we have watched classmates and roommates develop and transition from students to doctors and lawyers, professionals and pastors, and even a few professors. Many of us began the journey with our spouse at OBU; some with late nights at the Fairmont or Kettle, or a first kiss by the fountain on the oval. For us, our journey together included an engagement proposal in the steeple of Raley.

As I return to Bison Hill, my mind is filled with fond memories of a time that in retrospect seemed simpler. A time where friendship, laughter, learning, and yes, maybe even a prank or two, reigned supreme. A time where the bison would change its colors from week to week and the fountains would bubble-over with washing detergent. And it was a time where we discussed the future and God's calling on our lives. But it is not just nostalgia that makes this place special. A friend and former classmate recently said to me, "At OBU, I grew in wisdom and stature with God and man. I grew up so much and learned so much there."

While our stories are different, they are all the same. It is one of genesis, one of origins, one of new beginnings. Today, my daughter Hannah shares the roof her mother once did in Kerr Dorm. After living on two continents in five different countries, she has struggled to answer the question, "where is home?" My prayer is that she will find that answer to be the same that I did -- you are finally home ... home on Bison Hill.

Homecoming HIGHLIGHTS

Alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends of the University gathered for Homecoming 2016. From worship at Stubblefield Chapel, to class reunions and Harvest Dinner, Homecoming on Bison Hill is a special time.

The weekend began with Veterans Day as the University honored the service of all military members with a wreath laying ceremony. Harvest Court winners were announced during halftime of the Bison football game. Musical groups of all varieties performed during the Fine Arts Showcase, a homecoming tradition in Raley Chapel.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR.

Homecoming 2017
October 27 & 28



For more homecoming highlights, visit okbu.edu/homecoming.

Zip! Bang!
OBU
HOMECOMING 2016
OCTOBER 11-12

BISON AND LADY BISON FINISH STRONG IN **Third Year of NCAA Candidacy**

As fall and winter sports wrap up, and spring seasons are underway, teams around Bison Hill push to finish a strong third year of NCAA Division II candidacy.



Reagan Mann (#10, with ball) drives down the field during a match. The Lady Bison soccer team had their best record ever and finished as runner-up at the NCCAA tournament.

Women's Soccer Finishes Runner-Up at NCCAA Championship

OBU women's soccer wrapped up a very successful 2016, matching the 2014 season for the best record in program history at 15-6-1 while finishing runner-up at the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) National Championship. The nine win improvement from 2015 is the largest jump in program history.

Lady Bison Place Third at NCCAA Golf Championship

OBU took third place in the NCCAA Women's Golf National Championship. The Lady Bison shot 340 in the third and final round to solidify a third-place finish at 1,012 (352, 320, 340), 15 strokes ahead of fourth place Colorado Christian. OBU was paced by freshman Elly Baze, who earned NCCAA All-America honors with a 10th place finish. Baze finished in 87 on her third round to finish with a 247 three round total.



Volleyball Makes Semifinals of National Tournament

OBU volleyball continued to excel in 2016, wrapping up their season as NCCAA Championship semifinalists with a 23-15 overall record. The Lady Bison concluded the season at number seven in the NCCAA national poll. They also placed four players on the All-GAC volleyball squad. Among Great American Conference foes, the Lady Bison tied for third place in the 12 team league. The Lady Bison had five conference players of the week in 2016, including four different defensive players of the week.

Since reviving the program prior to the 2008 season, Anna Howle, head volleyball coach, has never had less than 23 wins in a season. Her squad's 11 wins in conference play this season marks the



Cadyn Laing (#17) leaps as she readies to spike the ball. The Lady Bison made it to the semifinals of the NCCAA national championship tournament.

Vicente Castillo moves around a defender as he readies to score. The team won the regular season GAC title.

seventh straight time that a Howle led team has achieved 11 or more conference victories, and they have never had a league finish below third since 2009.

Men's Soccer Wins Its First GAC Regular Season Crown

The OBU men's soccer team finished the 2016 campaign in the semifinal round of the National Christian College Athletic Association National Championship. In the final NCCAA poll, the Bison were ranked fifth after posting a 14-9-2 overall record. OBU competed in the Great American Conference for the second season, finishing with a 5-1 conference record to claim the first GAC regular season championship in program history. Five players were named to the All-GAC First Team, and the Bison earned 12 GAC Player of the Week honors, including back-to-back weeks where OBU swept the offensive, defensive and goalkeeper of the week awards.

Hoover Takes Fourth at Men's NCCAA Golf Championship

Hudson Hoover shot 73 in the final round to finish fourth at the NCCAA Men's Golf National Championship. The Bison finished seventh as a team at the Hombre Golf Club in Panama City Beach, Florida. Hoover earned NCCAA All-America status with his fourth place finish, a 226

three-round total. He registered four birdies in his final round, closing out the last five holes of the tournament at one under par.

Football Continues Move Forward

The 2016 Bison football season concluded at 2-9 for the second consecutive year. Although the win total was less than what was desired, there were plenty of accomplishments along the way. OBU claimed Great American Conference wins over East Central and Arkansas Tech, marking the first such wins over those programs. The Bison now have registered wins over four of their 11 GAC opponents in two seasons of transition to NCAA Division II. OBU was ranked No. 1 in the National Christian College Athletic Association throughout the season.

Cross-Country Teams Place Second and Fourth at Nationals

The OBU cross-country teams capped a successful season with strong finishes at the NCCAA National Championships. The Lady Bison repeated as national runner-up and the OBU men placed fourth, a move up from last year.

➤➤➤ Read more statistics and highlights online at **obubison.com**.

SPORTS

Janzen Goes the Distance for the Hungry

by Nicole Smith, Athletics Communications Intern



Jacob Janzen - 2016 Men's Cross Country

When most 16-year-olds get a driver's license, the first thing they might think about is all the places they can go with their friends. Sophomore biochemistry major Jacob Janzen, however, decided to use his license to help others.

A graduate of Jenks, Oklahoma, Janzen came to OBU on a track scholarship where he runs in long distance events. This year Janzen made All-Great American Conference and NCCAA All-American. When he's not running track for OBU during the school year, he usually spends his summer delivering food for Meals on Wheels to families in need. He got started when he noticed a call for drivers posted on his church's bulletin board.

"I started my junior year of high school when I got my license so it's been about three years," he said.

Janzen, who said he was looking for an opportunity to help the Tulsa community, felt he could use his new license to do some of God's work.

"They needed a lot more drivers because they're so short staffed," he said. "It's really bad in north Tulsa, there's a lot of poverty, so I felt called to go out there and try to do the best I can to help out."

Janzen's former church, the First Presbyterian church of Tulsa, provides the meals and has them ready for him to pick up and deliver.

"I go and pick up all the meals and work out a route and deliver all the meals to the people and visit with them," he said. "Because we also keep an eye on their well-being, if they're sick or something like that we report it."

Janzen said that making sure those in need have something to eat is a rewarding feeling. While some aren't necessarily happy about having to receive help, Janzen said his deliveries are usually met with gratitude. One man even invited him into his home once to share a piece of scripture.

"We talked a little bit about some of our favorite Bible verses," he said. "We talked several times about Paul's letters and he was a really big fan of Paul."

Janzen said at the time he hadn't studied much of Paul's letters and said the conversation made him feel led to read them more closely.

"It really helped me grow in my faith a lot so I'm very grateful for that interaction," he said. "It only lasted 25 minutes or so but it made a pretty lifelong impact."

While he doesn't get much time to help during breaks due to his family's move to Edmond, he still helps with Meals on Wheels at his former church every summer.

Currently Janzen is working on his degree in biochemistry so he can continue to help others in the medical field.

"I really would like to be a nuclear pharmacist, who works with compounding nuclear medicine for cancer treatments," he said.

In the meantime, he will continue to spend his summers helping to make sure that those in need can enjoy a good meal – proof that sometimes all you need to do God's work is a car, a full tank of gas and a willing heart.

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NOMINEES

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AWARD NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

The OBU Alumni Office is now accepting nominations for the Association's annual awards to be presented at Homecoming 2017. Each award represents the University's gratitude to the alumna or alumnus for bringing pride and honor to OBU. Nominate a deserving individual today!

2017 GRADUATE OF THE LAST DECADE

Presented to a young OBU alumna or alumnus who through his or her career has demonstrated outstanding achievement. Nominations are due April 14, 2017.

2018 PROFILE IN EXCELLENCE

Given to an alumna or alumnus who has demonstrated recognizable accomplishment in his or her profession, business, avocation or life service. Nominations are due August 1, 2017.

2017 ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This highest honor recognizes an alumna's or alumnus' outstanding life service. Nominations are due April 14, 2017.

For more information visit okbu.edu/alumni or call **405.585.5413**.

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